

The Investigative Study of Standards for Digital Repositories and Related Services

by Muriel Foulonneau and Francis André (CNRS, FR)

This study reviews the current standards, protocols and applications in the domain of digital repositories. Special attention is being paid to the interoperability of repositories to enhance the exchange of data in repositories. The study is meant for institutional repository managers, service providers, repository software developers and generally, all players taking an active part in the creation of the digital repository infrastructure for e-research.

It aims to raise the discussion about these topics and to support initiatives for the integration and in some cases, the development of new standards, in addition to the current interoperability mechanisms that have been implemented in digital repositories. The study looks at the current situation, but also focuses on the near future in terms of steps that have to be taken now in order to comply with future demands.

The production of the studies is being coordinated by SURF, the collaborative organisation for higher education and research aimed at breakthrough innovations in ICT in the Netherlands, in close association with Amsterdam University Press and the following DRIVER partners: CNRS (FR), the University of Gent (BE), ICM (PL), the University of Goettingen, the University of Bielefeld (GER), UKOLN and the University of Nottingham (UK).



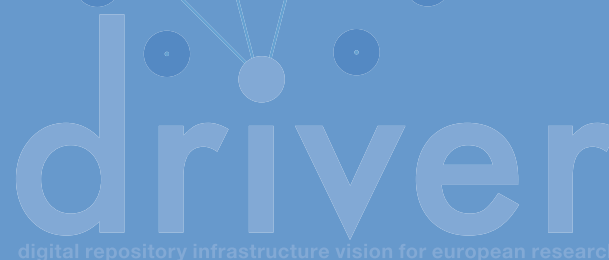
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**Information
about the
DRIVER Studies**



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Introduction

DRIVER is a European joint collaboration which aims to create a knowledge base for European research. DRIVER is funded by the EU (FP6) and puts in place a test-bed of digital repositories across Europe, to assist with the development of a knowledge infrastructure for the European Research Area. The project builds on existing institutional repositories and national networks across Europe.

DRIVER aims to collect publications that are Open Access only. This means that the end user, when performing a search, retrieves records that contain full text, or completely openly available data. DRIVER also aims to ensure the widest possible user involvement across Europe. In order to develop state-of-the-art technology and to standardise European practices in this respect, DRIVER has performed a set of strategic and coordinated studies on Digital Repositories and related topics.

All studies are available on the DRIVER website.

The Future for DRIVER

The initial phase of DRIVER focused on the support of institutional repositories and textual content in repositories. DRIVER II follows on from this and is funded under the Seventh Framework Programme.

In DRIVER-II, subject communities will feature more prominently in the project and DRIVER technical developments will focus on the development and enhancement of services for specific communities. In DRIVER-II, the technical focus will expand from the management of textual content in repositories to also include the management of complex objects such as data and multimedia. DRIVER's original partnership of 10 European partners which will expand to 13 with a further 6 additional partners to join later.

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The European Repository Landscape

by Maurits van der Graaf and Kwame van Eindhoven
(SURF, NL)

This is an inventory study that provides an overview of the present type and level of OAI compliant repository activities in the EU.

The study shows that a significant number of EU countries' research universities have developed a digital repository for research output. The study also shows that a smaller proportion of EU countries seem to be in a starting phase, and some countries do not appear to have any digital repository for the purpose of disseminating research output.

The study concludes that more work is needed to ensure awareness of the Open Access movement across Europe and that further encouragement for the establishment and development of digital repositories will aid in this work. This is because free access to knowledge and research outputs are important drivers for the knowledge society.

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The Driver's Guide to Repositories

edited by Kasja Weenink, Leo Waaijers and Karen van Godtsenhoven
(SURF, NL and University of Gent, BE)

This study aims to promote the creation, further development and networking of repositories. It contains comprehensive and current information on digital repository-related issues that are particularly relevant to repository managers, decision makers and funding agencies. DRIVER has identified five specific, complex and long-term issues which are essential to the establishment, development or sustainability of a digital repository. These are:

- Identifying appropriate business models for the establishment and maintenance of digital repositories (including costs and value),
- stimuli for depositing materials into repositories,
- intellectual property rights,
- data curation, and
- long term preservation.

The success of a repository depends on the degree to which these five issues have been addressed. The study focuses on inter- and transnational approaches which go beyond local interests, thereby making it applicable to a variety of situations.

The report will assist stakeholders to confront immediate, short term and long term challenges and can help them take advantage of established practices and sharing of good practice.

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